

Message Text

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ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01
INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02
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FM USLO PEKING
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 7913
INFO AMCONSUL HONG KONG PRIORITY
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AMEMBASSY TAIPEI
AMEMBASSY TOKYO
CINCPAC

C O N F I D E N T I A L PEKING 1107

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR, CH, US, UR

SUBJ: HSINHUA NOTES PRESIDENT'S CAUTIOUS ATTITUDE TOWARD SALT TALKS

1. THE PRC'S HSINMJA NEWS AGENCY JUNE 1 SUMMARIZED PRESIDENT CARTER'S RECENT STATEMENTS ON SALT TALKS, GIVING GENERAL IMPRESSION OF CAUTIOUS APPROACH ON PRESIDENT'S PART. ACCORDING TO HSINHUA, THE PRESIDENT ON MAY 26 STRESSED "DIFFERENCES" BETWEEN U.S. AND SOVIETS IN GENEVA TALKS; ON MAY 28 SAID U.S. MUST BE "CAUTIOUS AND CAREFUL" ABOUT NUCLEAR DISARMAMENT; AND ON MAY 30 STRESSED U.S. "CONCERN" ABOUT SOVIETS' "HUGE MISSILES." ARTICLE ALSO REPORTED BREZHNEV "ATTACKED CARTER'S POLICY" IN SPEECH MAY 29.

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2. OTHER RECENT ARTICLES IN PRC PRESS HAVE ALSO EMPHASIZED U.S. - SOVIET DIFFERENCES AND U.S. ADMINISTRATION'S COMMITMENT TO STRONG DEFENSE. THUS SEVERAL ARTICLES ON NATO SUMMIT MEETING AND SUBSEQUENT DEFENSE MINISTERS' MEETING HIGHLIGHTED U.S. PUSH TO STRENGTHEN NATO'S DEFENSES AND RAISE MEMBER COUNTRIES' DEFENSE BUDGETS

IN FACT OF "GROWING THREAT" FROM SOVIET MILITARY BUILD-
UP. SIMILARLY, HSINHUA MAY 4 REPORTED SECRETARY
BROWN'S DECISION TO CONTINUE PRODUCTION OF MINUTEMAN
MISSILE, TYING IT TO CONTINUED DEADLOCK ON SALT
NEGOTIATIONS.

3. ANOTHER ARTICLE, ON MAY 29, CITED A CONGRESSIONAL
REPORT WHICH REPORTEDLY CRITICIZED SCIENTIFIC COOPERA-
TION WITH SOVIET UNION. THE ARTICLE QUOTED BOTH SENATOR
JACKSON AND FRED BUCY OF TEXAS INSTRUMENTS AS SAYING
THAT PRESENT RATE OF TECHNOLOGY TRANSFER TO SOVIETS
WAS DETRIMENTAL TO U.S. INTERESTS. SAME ARTICLE ALSO
REPORTED "U.S. DAILY NEWS" OBJECTIONS TO PENDING SALE
OF CYBER 76 COMPUTER TO MOSCOW.

4. COMMENT: SO FAR PRC MEDIA HAVE REFRAINED FROM INI-

TIATING THEIR OWN COMMENT ON STATE OF SALT TALKS AND OF
US-SOVIET RELATIONS IN GENERAL. GENERAL TENOR OF
THESE "NEWS" ARTICLES, HOWEVER, IS THAT U.S. PUBLIC
OPINION IS GRADUALLY WAKING UP TO DANGER POSED
BY SOVIETS, AND THAT CARTER ADMINISTRATION AND PRESIDENT
HIMSELF SHARE THIS AWARENESS AT LEAST IN PART. WHILE
PEKING LEADERSHIP MAINTAINS ITS ABSOLUTE OPPOSITION
TO DETENTE, IT SEEMS TO BE REFRAINING FOR NOW FROM
OPEN DENUNCIATION OF THE MORE PRO-DETENTE ASPECTS OF
U.S. POLICY.

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